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Science and Engineering Research Canada

Contact

Investing in people, discovery and innovation

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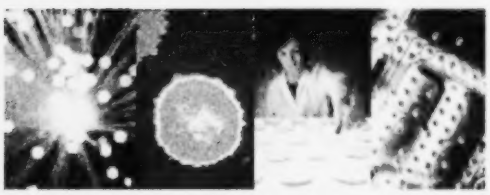

NSERC
CRSNG

[Editor's Note: Because of the late date of the federal Budget this year, and the amount of information on other subjects that we wish to get out to the research community in timely fashion, the editorial by Dr. Brzustowski describing the Budget's impact on NSERC will appear only in the next issue of* Contact.*]

Update on NSERC's Vision Initiatives

Since Council adopted its new vision last year, NSERC staff have been busy designing the programs that will make it a reality. You can read all about them below.

The new thrusts, which all complement NSERC's core role of supporting university research in science and engineering, were developed after extensive reflection and consultation in 2002 and 2003. On a national scale, NSERC is working with NRC to develop a framework that will make it easier to deal with big science projects. In addition, NSERC came to the conclusion that math and science education, research capacity building in small universities, and innovation at the community level are important matters that NSERC can help with on its own. As you know, NSERC is setting out to do just that, beginning with small-scale pilot projects in these three areas.

As well, NSERC will be setting up small regional offices to help with supporting the three pilot projects, all of which have regional dimensions.

"I'm hearing good things about the new vision from people all over Ottawa. We are seen as ready to roll up our sleeves and do what has to be done for Canada. I believe that expanding our sphere of influence will make NSERC a much more attractive competitor for scarce federal dollars, and the entire NSERC community will benefit," says President Brzustowski. "In fact, one Minister summed up his reaction in the words, 'NSERC is a federal agency starting to act like a national agency,' and praised the Vision initiatives enthusiastically."

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NSERC, now also known as Science and Engineering Research Canada, is a key federal agency investing in people, discovery, and innovation. It supports both basic university research through research grants, and project research through partnerships among postsecondary institutions, government and the private sector, as well as the advanced training of highly qualified people.

Contact is published by the NSERC Newsbureau and can also be found on the Internet at www.nserc.gc.ca/publicat.htm.

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Atlantic Regional Office to Be Set Up in Moncton

After visits to all four Atlantic provinces and consultations with more than 100 university, community, and government leaders, the recommendation to NSERC management was that the Atlantic regional office should be located in Moncton, New Brunswick.

"The advantages of Moncton are its central location within the Atlantic region and the broad support it received from the people consulted," said Danielle Ménard, who conducted the consultations with the help of Madeleine Bastien.

The office will focus on building good relations with local communities and facilitating access to programs. But the consultations revealed that the community expects more. They expect that the regional office will make it easier for NSERC to talk to researchers and students, understand their needs and concerns, and participate in the development of research projects and opportunities. The four staff in the office will obviously have to work on creating productive links with other organizations involved in research, innovation and the promotion of science in the region. Priority will be placed on ensuring that the office serves the whole Atlantic region. As the situation evolves, there may be a need to have a more significant presence in other locations in the region to address specific needs.

A similar office for the Prairies will be set up in Winnipeg. Consultations on detailed arrangements will begin later this year. Work on the British Columbia office will follow next year, and the Québec and Ontario offices after that. It should be noted that NSERC is creating these offices within its current administrative and salary resources in its administrative budget.

For information on positions at NSERC's Atlantic office, visit www.nserc.gc.ca in mid-April; click on Contact Us, then on Career Opportunities.

Big Science Framework Discussions Ongoing

The framework for assessing and ranking "Big Science" projects is progressing well.

We have received helpful input from a number of researchers who have previously been involved in Big Science projects, as well as NRC and NSERC Councils. The framework has also been validated and improved by applying it to recently funded projects. The Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Canadian Space Agency have both become involved.

Some of the key issues raised in the consultations were the need to determine all the life-cycle project costs and to make provision for them in the funding decision, the need for a robust oversight and monitoring mechanism once a project has been funded, and the potential role of the new National Science Advisor in the priority-setting process.

The second version of the framework will be discussed again by NRC and NSERC Councils in February and March. After that, the framework will be circulated among other agencies and within government in a broader consultation process.

College and Community Innovation Pilot Program Announced

NSERC is going to start making it easier for community colleges to assist local companies with innovation by assigning expert college staff and students to help with R&D on a project basis. This pilot project is expected to expose students to innovations and to help local companies remain competitive by adopting new technologies and launching new and improved products and processes. Over three years, NSERC will make up to six awards of up to $600,000 each to colleges that are successful in the competition.

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The program is a unique partnership between NSERC, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), and the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME).

The Honourable Mauril Bélanger, Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, announced the pilot program at an ACCC symposium Feb. 12.

Visit www.nserc.gc.ca/programs/vision/college_e.htm for program details.

Centres for Research in Youth, Science Teaching and Learning (CRYSTALs): Pilot Program to Be Launched Soon

CRYSTALs will make NSERC a partner in developing and enhancing the skills of, and resources available to, science and math teachers (K-12). We hope our contribution will help improve the preparation of Canadian children in these subjects. K-12 education is a new domain for a federal organization, but we have learned that we would be most welcome as a partner in activities that already occupy many others.

NSERC decided to launch this pilot program after extensive consultation with university science and education faculties, and many other stakeholders, including provincial ministries of education, schoolboards and schools, and the science promotion community. These consultations confirmed what NSERC had heard earlier from the research community during workshops on Highly Qualified People (HQP) held in 2002: the future demand for HQP is a critical challenge for Canada, and NSERC should work in partnership with other key players to ensure that more young Canadians will be ready for and interested in advanced training in science, mathematics and engineering.

NSERC will provide funding for five or six Centres, hosted at Canadian universities, for research and knowledge transfer/outreach programs. Each Centre will have the flexibility to develop its own specific theme and activities. The objectives of the CRYSTALs program are to: establish effective collaboration between researchers in education and those in science, math, engineering, and other areas as appropriate, as well as with partners from the education and science promotion communities; foster excellent research in science and math education; support the training of researchers and professional educators; and transfer knowledge and expertise to the education and science promotion communities.

Complete program details will be available April 1 on NSERC's Web site, and the deadline for letters of intent is May 29.

Research Capacity Development Pilot Program Receives Overwhelming Response

In February, NSERC followed a strong recommendation from the Research Capacity Development in Small Universities (RCD) advisory committee, and expanded the list of eligible institutions taking part in the RCD pilot program from 11 to 38. All institutions receiving less than $3 million in NSERC grants and scholarships in 2002-03 were invited to participate in the program – 33 out of 38 confirmed their intent to apply. The price of a more inclusive program is a much lower success rate, but the potential applicants are aware of that, and not deterred by it.

Successful institutions must demonstrate how the additional funds they receive will contribute to a significant and sustainable increase in their existing research base. In addition institutions must indicate how the award will substantially reduce or eliminate existing barriers to research productivity and, when successful, report annually on the progress made against specific performance indicators.

The final program description will be available on NSERC's Web site as soon as it is approved by Council.

If you have any questions on the RCD program in the meantime, contact the following NSERC staff members:

- Mario Lamarca, at (613) 947-6370 or mario.lamarca@nserc.ca;
- Marie Emond, at (613) 996-6427 or marie.emond@nserc.ca; and
- Daphné Toussaint, at (613) 944-6246 or daphne.toussaint@nserc.ca.

Be sure to visit www.nserc.gc.ca regularly for up-to-date information on our Vision initiatives.

New Format for Information Sessions

Beginning this year, NSERC's fall information sessions will be organized by region rather than according to the Grant Selection Committee (GSC) structure as in the past. This means that representatives of NSERC and members of *various* GSCs from your own or nearby institutions will update faculty on NSERC and show applicants how to prepare discovery grant applications.

The sessions will be most helpful for new faculty members, but all researchers and administrators are welcome. Universities interested in hosting an information session must submit a request to NSERC. The sessions are usually held in September and October, but other times are sometimes possible.

This new format will complement NSERC's other efforts to reach the research community more efficiently, such as through presentations by staff and GSC members during professional societies' summer meetings and workshops.

To find out more, visit NSERC's Web site at www.nserc.gc.ca/programs/info_session_e.htm, or contact Louise Benoit at (613) 996-2985 or infosessions@nserc.ca.

2004 NSERC Steacie Fellows Announced

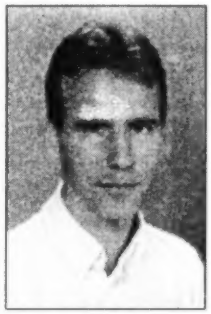
The six winners of the 2004 NSERC Steacie Fellowships were announced in March by the Honourable Lucienne Robillard, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for NSERC, and Dr. Tom Brzustowski, President of NSERC.

The prestigious fellowships are awarded to the most outstanding Canadian university scientists or engineers who have earned their doctorate within the last twelve years, and include increased research funding from NSERC and a payment to the university to allow the individuals to pursue their research full-time.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony in Ottawa later this year.

For full details on the researchers and their achievements, visit www.nserc.gc.ca/media_e.htm, and on the prizes, visit www.nserc.gc.ca/steacie/about_e.htm.

Dr. Eric Hessels
Atomic Physics
York University



Dr. Eric Hessels

Dr. Hessels is a world leader in precise atomic measurements. The professor of physics, and Canada Research Chair in Atomic Physics, holds the world record for measuring the energy required for an electron to jump orbits in a helium atom. This measurement enables physicists to more accurately calculate the fine-structure constant, a value that is a fundamental component of quantum physics calculations.

Dr. Hessels is a member of ATRAP, an international team that in 2002 developed a new technique to produce abundant antihydrogen atoms at CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics, near Geneva.

The ATRAP team was able to produce millionth-of-a-second glimpses of antihydrogen, long enough to make some of the first measurements of these antiatoms, including initial indications of how large they are.

As part of his NSERC Steacie research, Dr. Hessels will be working with the ATRAP team to contain antihydrogen in mid-vacuum using a magnetic field and thus be able to watch, and measure it, for hours. Antiatom measurements are believed to hold decisive answers to fundamental questions about the structure of the universe.

Dr. George Eleftheriades
Metamaterials
University of Toronto

Dr. Eleftheriades is a pioneer in the creation of metamaterials, artificial composite materials that have extraordinary electromagnetic characteristics.

Dr. George Eleftheriades

The lab of the associate professor in the department of electrical and computer engineering was the first in the world to create planar metamaterials with a negative refractive index (or "left-handed"). These materials bend electromagnetic radiation in the opposite direction of Snell's Law, considered a foundation of physics since 1621.

In December 2002, Dr. Eleftheriades produced the first experimental demonstration of a planar "left-handed" metamaterial lens, a flat lens that nonetheless intensely focuses electromagnetic waves. In June 2003, Dr. Eleftheriades took the work a remarkable step further and reported the first experimental evidence that these flat left-handed metamaterials can be used to form super-resolving lenses, ones that can resolve details smaller than the wavelength of electromagnetic radiation being used.

He's currently working with a major multinational telecommunications company to use metamaterials to create miniaturized wireless devices with ultrawide bandwidths.

As part of his NSERC Steacie research, and in collaboration with the Department of National Defence, he's also working to make metamaterials to enhance radar resolution as well as to avoid radar detection through stealth technology.

Dr. Thomas Brabec
Ultra-fast Physics
University of Ottawa

In the mid-1990s, Dr. Brabec developed the theoretical underpinnings for the creation of femtosecond (10^{-15} seconds) solid-state laser pulses. This led to the generation of five femtosecond laser pulses (five-millionths-of-a-billionth-of-a-second), the world's fastest at the time. Used as ultra-fast camera flashes, these femtosecond pulses have become the new standard for watching and better understanding chemical reactions.

Anthony Scullion Photography, Ottawa

Dr. Thomas Brabec

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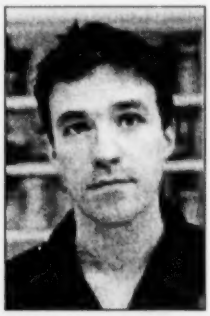
Dr. Brabec subsequently developed the theory for the measurement of the first single attosecond (10^{-18} seconds) pulse and was involved in the first such measurement, made by Dr. Ferenc Krausz, at the Vienna University of Technology.

Attosecond science holds the promise of resolving a new atomic and molecular horizon by using speeds and wavelengths of energy that can see nuclear and electron-level details.

As part of his NSERC Steacie research, his research group, in collaboration with Drs. Paul Corkum and Pawel Hawrylak of the National Research Council, will explore how to apply the theoretical tools developed for attophysics to nano-photonics problems, such as single molecule transistors.

Dr. Brabec holds the Canada Research Chair in Ultra-fast Photonics, and was recruited from Austria to the University of Ottawa's Centre for Research in Photonics in June 2002.

Dr. Patrick Keeling
Evolutionary Biology
University of British Columbia



Dr. Patrick Keeling

Dr. Keeling is a leading researcher in the molecular evolution and cell biology of protists. These are a diverse group of single-celled eukaryotes that were among the first to evolve.

Studying protists he has discovered two of only five cases where nuclear genomes deviate from the universal genetic code, the rules guiding the translation of DNA into amino acids. His lab group is also contributing to an international effort to build an accurate tree of eukaryotic life.

In 2003, Dr. Keeling reported the first evidence of widespread and substantial eukaryotic lateral gene transfer — the movement of genes from one species to another — and demonstrated that eating could be one mechanism for this transfer.

As part of his NSERC Steacie research, Dr. Keeling will continue to work with the tropical marine alga *Bigelowiella natans* to see if the evidence of lateral gene transfer extends beyond its plastid-targeted proteins to the protist's entire genome. He'll also be working with organisms that use a variant genetic code to investigate how a genome adapts to a new genetic code.

Dr. Keeling is a Canadian Institute for Advanced Research scholar, and an assistant professor in the department of botany.

Dr. Mosto Bousmina
Polymer Engineering
Laval University

Dr. Mosto Bousmina

Dr. Bousmina's laboratory is a world leader in the rheology of multiphase polymeric systems, the way in which plastics, and their additives, flow and mix.

One of his major scientific contributions was extending Albert Einstein's 1911 viscosity equation to viscoelastic media (liquids that flow like water and relax like springs) containing deformable and viscoelastic spheres. This equation is now used worldwide in industrial and research applications to predictively determine a material's end properties.

Dr. Bousmina also developed, in collaboration with his colleague Dr. Kaliaguine, a method to mathematically determine the porosity of soft materials by filling them with water. The technique is now recognized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as the only one suitable for the assessment of porosity in biological, hydrogel and soft materials.

For his NSERC Steacie Fellowship research, Dr. Bousmina is focusing on the application of clay to creating new nanomaterials. His 21-person lab is exploring how to effectively delaminate the nanoscale layers of clay, including using ultrasound to measure the exact energy required to separate two layers.

A professor of engineering, he is also the Canada Research Chair in Polymer Physics and Nanomaterials.

Dr. Lisa Jeffrey
Symplectic Geometry
University of Toronto

Photo by Ken Jones

Dr. Lisa Jeffrey

Dr. Lisa Jeffrey works in symplectic geometry, the mathematical generalization of the physical concepts of position and motion that are used to describe the behaviour of both everyday objects and subatomic particles.

The work has taken Dr. Jeffrey, a professor of mathematics, to the forefront of a field that is at the intersection of theoretical physics and mathematics.

In collaboration with Oxford University's Dr. Frances Kirwan, Dr. Jeffrey created an orthodox mathematical proof for a result proposed by physicist Dr. Edward Witten at IAS (Princeton) using methods from physics closely related to string theory.

As part of her NSERC Steacie Fellowship she'll be co-leading a year-long, international program in the Geometry of String Theory at the Fields Institute (Toronto).

One problem she'll continue to work on involves non-orientable surfaces, two-dimensional objects that have no inside or outside, such as the Klein bottle. Dr. Witten has proposed a formula describing certain mathematical objects associated to these surfaces, but until recent work by Dr. Jeffrey and others in the symplectic geometry group at the University of Toronto, no satisfactory mathematical proof existed.

Industrial Research Chair Aims to Improve Food Safety

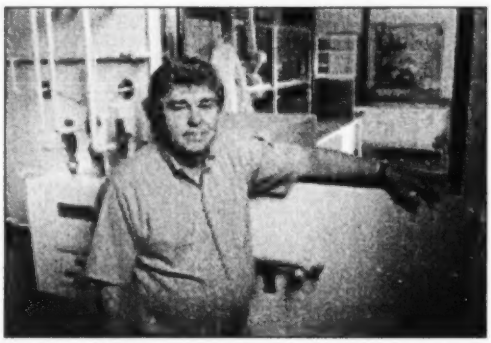
Food safety is in the forefront of public attention because of high-profile incidents like the one in Japan in the summer of 2003, when 15,000 people fell ill from contaminated milk.

"An incident like that is not likely to happen here, because Canada — and Ontario, in particular — enjoys one of the safest dairy supplies in the world," says Dr. Mansel Griffiths. "But still, it shows that we should be very careful, since there is always a chance that things could go wrong and grave health and economic consequences will result."

Food safety is at the centre of Dr. Griffiths' work in the Department of Food Science at the University of Guelph.

Dr. Griffiths holds the NSERC/Dairy Farmers of Ontario Industrial Research Chair in Dairy Microbiology. As part of his research, he has designed a number of tests to detect unwanted bacteria in dairy products and is exploring new ways to measure microorganisms in the products to determine actual contamination levels.

One method for measuring microorganisms involves bacteriophages (viruses that target and explode specific bacteria). The level of the bacteriophages in a milk sample is an indicator of the amount of bacteria. The test is a quick two-hour procedure, but it requires significantly contaminated samples (with more than one million bacteria present) to be accurate.



Dr. Mansel Griffiths

Another method Dr. Griffiths and his team are studying is called immuno-magnetic separation. Tiny magnetic beads covered in antibodies for a specific bacterium are placed in a sample solution. The bacteria bind to the antibodies on the beads, which are then removed from the sample with a magnet; bacteriophages can then be used to break apart the trapped bacteria and their numbers can be measured. This method is more time-consuming and complex, but far more accurate because it is able to detect bacteria in less contaminated samples.

Dr. Griffiths is also looking at a method that uses a "reporter" gene (which causes the infected bacteria to glow) to tag DNA in the bacteriophage. Laboratory imaging systems then can measure the faint light levels to determine the levels of bacteria.

"Since my arrival at Guelph in 1990, it has been my good fortune and privilege to work with and receive financial backing from Dairy Farmers of Ontario and NSERC through the Industrial Research Chairs program," says Dr. Griffiths. "This has given me the freedom to develop a wide-ranging research program primarily focused on food safety."

Industry is reaping the benefits from the Chair program as well, particularly since food safety and quality have emerged as key issues in the food industry. According to Wes Lane, the Dairy Farmers of Ontario's Director of Communications and Planning, "the expertise that Mansel Griffiths has provided in looking at improved methods for the detection of food pathogens and in better understanding the factors that affect the growth and survival of these pathogens has been a tremendous help to the industry."

Dr. Griffiths' work involves collaborating with other companies as well. One such collaboration is with Mississauga-based Toxin Alert, on the development of a flexible polyethylene film that doubles as food packaging plastic wrap and a diagnostic tool for determining food freshness.

Dr. Griffiths is also the Director of the Canadian Research Institute for Food Safety and the 2002 winner of the International Association for Food Protection Laboratorian of the Year award. Since becoming a Chairholder, Dr. Griffiths has trained 28 M.Sc. students, six Ph.D. students and six postdoctoral fellows. There are currently five M.Sc. students, 11 Ph.D. students and one postdoctoral fellow involved in the research. Four of his former Ph.D. students now hold full-time faculty appointments, a number are employed as Research Scientists at Health Canada and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and many hold positions at such companies as Nestlé, The Coca-Cola Company, and General Mills.

The $10,000 Graduate Student Innovation Challenge

NSERC and the Canadian Science and Technology Growth Fund are putting up $10,000 in prizes for graduate students whose write-ups of the business potential of their research give the best demonstration of both innovation and entrepreneurial spirit.

Watch for the Innovation Challenge Award competition announcement and entry rules in April at www.nserc.gc.ca/about/award_e.htm. Winners will be recognized at the 2004 Synergy Awards for Innovation ceremony this fall.

Support for Research on Critical Infrastructure

NSERC and Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEP) have launched a joint program to fund research in the area of critical infrastructure interdependencies.

The subject of the research will be the networks, utilities, and services that, if disrupted or destroyed, could have a serious impact on the health, safety, security or economic well-being of Canadians, or the effective functioning of governments. Examples include the energy, communications, finance, health care, food, water, and transportation systems. Each system is complex in its own right, but even more complex are the interdependencies that leave these systems vulnerable to hard-to-predict cascading collapses.

To qualify for funding, researchers are expected to form multi-disciplinary teams to focus on the cross-sectoral issues and to involve one or more Canadian non-academic organizations that can apply the results of the research. Research projects that focus on a single infrastructure are excluded. Funding for projects is available for a maximum of three years. PSEP and NSERC are each contributing $500,000 a year.

A full description of the Joint Infrastructure Interdependencies Research Program and accompanying application instructions will be posted on the NSERC Web site April 1. The application deadline for this one-time competition is September 1.

NSERC Concourse Brings People Together

The NSERC Concourse Web site is a venue for students, researchers and companies to advertise or find out about research or employment opportunities. Participants may submit descriptive postings by e-mail, under four headings: For Students, For Researchers, For Companies, and Job Postings.

The Concourse is a free service open to individuals and organizations involved in the NSERC research disciplines.

For more information, go to www.nserc.gc.ca/match/main_e.asp.

New Prize Honours Dr. Bertram Brockhouse

NSERC has created a new prize in honour of Canadian Nobel Prize winner Dr. Bertram Brockhouse that recognizes outstanding teams of interdisciplinary researchers.

Dr. Bertram Brockhouse

The Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Engineering will be accompanied by a team research grant of $250,000 in support of the direct costs of research and/or the enhancement of the research environment, including the purchase of equipment. One award will be made each year.

A research team nominated for the Brockhouse Canada Prize must include at least two independent researchers, one of whom holds an NSERC grant. Team members may be from academia, government or industry and must still be working together at the time of nomination.

The deadline date for nominations is May 21. Further information can be found on NSERC's Web site, at www.nserc.gc.ca/about/award_e.htm.

Have a Say in the Future Direction of the Intellectual Property Management Program

A consultation paper on the Intellectual Property Management (IPM) program will be distributed this spring to universities and hospitals, as well as some other federal, provincial or regional organizations active in the area of technology transfer and commercialization.

The program, sponsored by NSERC, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, aims to accelerate the transfer of knowledge and technology resulting from university- and hospital-based research. Competitions are held every three years and the next one is scheduled for February 2005.

Since the IPM program was first introduced in 1996, some university industry liaison offices have become self-sufficient, several new offices have been established and there is a higher level of networking among offices. In addition, new sources of funding, such as federal support for indirect costs of research, the NSERC Idea to Innovation program and the CIHR Proof of Principle program are now available to support some of the activities also supported by the IPM program.

Because of these developments, the direction of the program is being reconsidered, and the three granting agencies are hoping that the consultations will help them formulate their plans for the future.

Comments should be addressed to anne-marie.monteith@nserc.ca.

Newsbureau Gets a Facelift and Goes Global...

Visitors to the "For media" section of the NSERC Web site will find a number of new features. Copies of the news bulletin that we send out to journalists are now posted weekly. In addition, media and the public can now subscribe electronically to all NSERC news releases. To make it easier to find experts in our on-line database of NSERC-funded researchers, we've introduced a simplified "stripped down" search function. Coming soon will be a renovated section of links to upcoming scientific meetings in Canada and to Canadian research journals, and if all goes well links to current university science news releases.

Advancing Science in Seattle

In February, the Newsbureau's manager, Arnet Sheppard, attended the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), held in Seattle this year. With more than 140 symposia, 782 presenters, 30 press briefings and more than 1,000 media attendees, this is the largest public meeting of its kind in the world, and a great place for scientists, students and the interested public to rub shoulders, learn and share information. The first meeting of the AAAS outside the U.S., incidentally, was held in Montréal in 1856.

Unfortunately, the Canadian presence at this particular meeting was disappointing. There were few presenters and no exhibitors. The Newsbureau will be looking at ways to turn things around a bit for next year's meeting in Washington (February 17-22). The closest thing to the AAAS meeting in Canada is the ACFAS meeting, this year to be held at the Université du Québec à Montréal May 10 to 14. (Newsbureau staff will be there, too.) There is no equivalent in English Canada.

Going Deeper: Canadian Science News Will Travel Further

One positive outcome is that NSERC has negotiated an agreement with EurekaAlert! the AAAS's global science news distribution network. Under the arrangement, NSERC will subsidize the cost of the EurekaAlert! distribution of Canadian university science news releases. The service will be offered to universities that do not currently have a EurekaAlert! subscription. Releases will need to be sent to NSERC first and must meet both NSERC's and EurekaAlert!'s criteria for content and newsworthiness. Researchers and university public information officers are invited to contact us for more information. EurekaAlert! can distribute releases in either English or French.

Research Stories in the Canadian Media

The year got off to a fast start with a number of stories profiled by the NSERC Newsbureau prominent in the media. University of Alberta researcher Andrew Iwaniuk's work on the brain power of parrots was picked up by the *Edmonton Journal*, *The Province* (Vancouver), *The Vancouver Sun*, *The StarPhoenix* (Saskatoon) and the *Calgary Herald*. Similarly, research by McGill University grantee Thomas Paus (one of the few Canadians who presented at the AAAS) showed up in *La Presse* (Montréal) and on TV's *Daily Planet* (The Discovery Channel). In early March, Randy Boswell's article "Worming his way to a fortune in oil," featuring Alberta geologist George Pemberton's research on the fascinating connection between fossil worm tunnels and oil field reserves, appeared in the *Ottawa Citizen* and five other Canadian dailies.

Reminder

If you know of a major paper in the works (yours, a colleague's, a student's) that might be of interest to the media, send us an e-mail: newsbureau@nserc.ca. No information is disclosed without the permission of those involved, and we respect all publication embargoes.

Call for Nominations

Deadlines

NSERC Herzberg Medal	May 15
Innovation Challenge Award	May 15
Brockhouse Canada Prize	May 21
Synergy Awards for Innovation	May 30
E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowships	July 1

www.nserc.gc.ca/about/award_e.htm